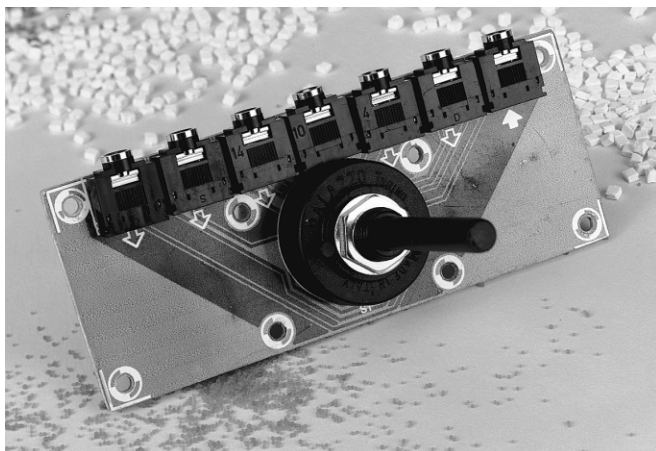


line switch for PC sound card



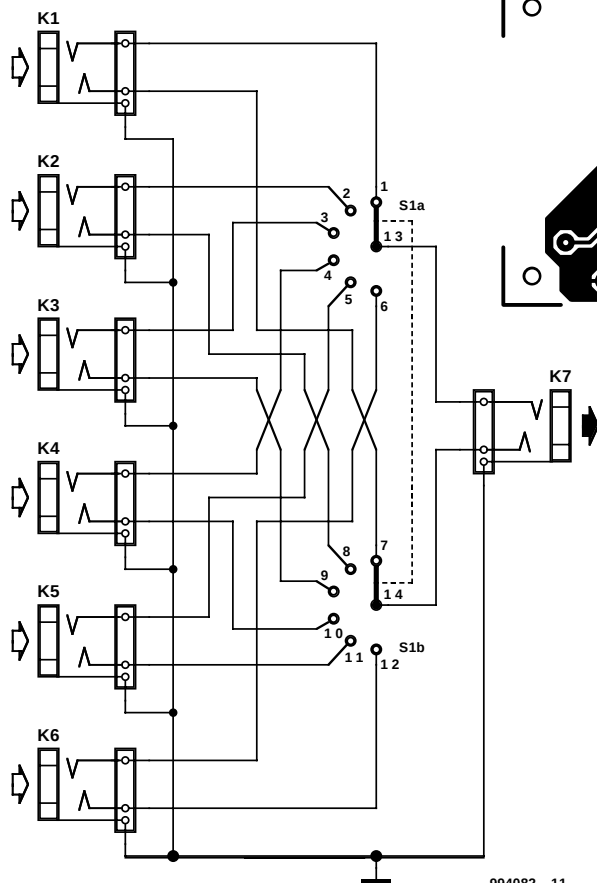
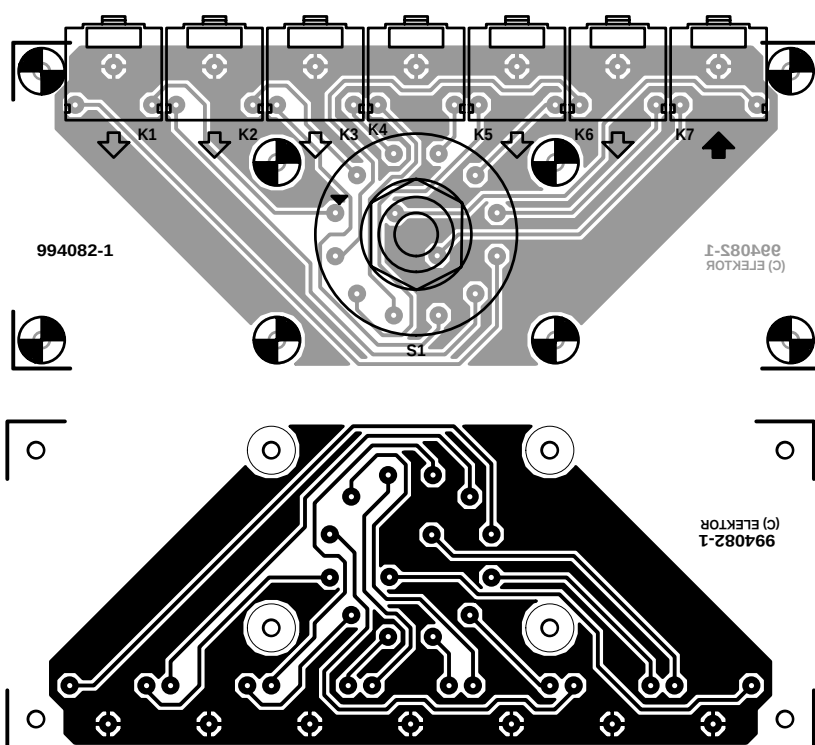
Design: T. Giesberts

With the equipment that is found in the domestic or office environment, the distinction between the various disciplines is becoming increasingly blurred. The stereo, television set and video recorder have long since been merged into a single audiovisual installation, and there are signs of the same sort of process with the computer. Formerly, this consisted of just a main enclosure, a monitor and a keyboard, but nowadays it is being surrounded by a steadily increasing number of peripheral devices, and it is in a manner of speaking growing in the direction of the audiovisual

installation. The same effect can be seen in the application realm. In addition to the classical applications, the computer is being used more and more for digital audio.

Anyone who for example spends a lot of time with *sampling* and making his or her own CDs, soon finds that the single input connector of the sound card is insufficient to deal with a large number of audio sources. A cassette deck, MiniDisk player, phonograph, microphone — in principle, all of these can be connected, although the phonograph and the microphone naturally require special preamplifiers.

If you want to avoid the inconvenience of disconnecting and reconnecting cables, the only solution is to use a line switch box. Such a box is not at all complicated in the electronic sense, as can be seen from the schematic diagram. A handful of 3.5-mm jacks and a six-position, two-pole rotary switch are all that you need. The practi-



Components List

K1-K7 = 3.5 mm stereo-jack
PCB mount (e.g. Conrad
no. 73 28 93-55)

S1 = rotary switch, 6
positions/2 poles, PCB
mount

cal aspects, as usual, are rather more onerous. For this reason, we have developed a tidy printed circuit board for the line switch box, which eliminates hand wiring — which will no doubt be appreciated by the constructor! It should not be difficult to find a suitable enclosure for the line switch. You should preferably use a metal enclosure and connect it to the circuit earth.

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